1/22/72

Dear Cyril,

Prior to receiving your letter of the 19th I had filed your previous letter, not intending to respond. Periodically I tell myself I have to rethink my position. Regularly I tell myself the hell with it, I've ruined our lives and futures with the work I've done and the only thing to do it get hermit-like, stop wasting time trying to help other who do little or nothing to contribute to what we know, forget about trying to prevent mistakes and blunders, for I cannot, and just get done what I want to get done so that at some point we can begin to live like menschen again and perhaps my reputation will not be so destroyed that I can again make a living.

This Lattimer thingx is only one aspect of what I anticipated and wrote others about. You never responded, but perhaps a year ago I wrote you and told you I had figured out a safe way to accomplish our purposes, that with I then had you and I working together were finally in a position to really do something. You never responded. In September or October I saw at least two possibilities for hurt to us, and I wrote various people, in each case trying to avoid imposing my judgement on them and asking them to think for themslves of the hazard that to me impended. Not one replied to say I have thought this through with care and I see nothing, so what do you have in mind. Perhaps some, as you, consider themselves too busy. As in another context and perhaps with too much emption I tried to make you understand, the difference in our (pl.) being busy is that I put in longer hours than I think most are capable of and am the only one who does it without in return getting the means of simplest sustainance. So, when I'm told others are busy, I have a special kind of reaction to it. You may recall that you added panhandling.

Beginning then I did start to reorder my life. I have and have had a book that could have done everything for us - could not being certainty - because of their stupidity in using Lattimer. I could not bring it out. BUT, I am not going to give any of it away, regardless of cost, and if any of those to whom I have shown or loaned or given parts use any of it, I have reached the point where I'll see if I can protect my rights.

One of the consequences of being busy, especially where money is involved, is that those so busy making the money do not have time to think of other things. On the other hand, having resigned myself to not making money, I do have time to think. Many complaints have been made of me, and one of the reasons I asked others to think about what I foresaw is so that I would not have to face one of these accusations, trying to impose my views on others. Another, obviously, is the frailty of man. Perhaps I was wrong. Still another is that witha free mind, things I had not considered might suggest themselves.

The anti-intellectualism reflected (and other possibilities I consider less flattering) in no major critic of the past -as most are, having done nothing in years - in not making any meaningful response to this inquiry shocked me. It is perhaps the fabled straw. I do hope it is, for I must end the great cost to my work that so many of the side things I have done represents. I spent more time trying to straighten John Nichols out that it would have taken me to write a book, and the time and effort were wasted.

So I have decided that, to the degree consistent with maintain friendships for those like and respect, and such as Sylvia are due the greatest respect, I will withdraw from active association with all except those not <u>now</u> doing work. You also have helped teach me that I must. Can you imagine that I also wasted much time trying to get you to keep your promise to send me those couple of pages on the capabilities on spectro and enutron-act testing. If I am not paid for my time, I pay for it in many ways. I wrote you quite a letters to which you never responded, except to tell me what didn't tell me what I wa to know, the capabilities and limitations of these tests, and selected by a judgement to that I would have were I to have gone to the library. You also taught me when you

not be a witness for me in my suit for the clothing pictures, even though I had shown you some I had and you should have seen their potential. If you will re-examine the letter of refusal, you will see that it boils down to the allegation that it would cost you money. When I am something like $35,000 in hock from this work and have many other, always current and pressing financial problems from it, I am the wrong guy to tell this to, no matter how politely. To this day you do not know the capability of that suit, or its success in defeat -or what it could have meant had you associated yourself with it - or what it could have prevented that I believe impends and will ultimately make it more difficult to do anything about the guilty in several areas. I say "I believe" because I am aware that perfection is not a condition of man and that while I have made relatively few mistakes in an enormous amount of writing and work, I have made some and know I can make more. I would like to be wrong in my present concern.

As I told you, I had and have fears about what you are trying to do. You have had no genuine interest in these fears, whether or not they are justified. Now, if I am correct, do you imagine I have some kind of magic wand that I can wave and eliminate the danger I consider possible? I have no such illusion. I think the situation is very bad.

Because everybody else abdicated except for talking - and if there has been a single exception, not one has communicated it to me - I have undertaken to cope with this in my own way. To a degree, I have already succeeded. I will, to the limit of my capability, do what I have been doing unless I become persuaded it is the wrong approach. So long as it is what to me is productive, I remain persuaded that for me and for the situation and for my limitations it is the right way. This relates to Lattimer. But it will also relate to what follows, if anything. I have had a source outside the critical community, and from that source I know not what has been told you but that as of ~~Tuesday~~ Tuesday Marshall had not okayed you. Unless he lied. One of the by-products of this is that if you are given access, and I remain hopeful that you will not be, you have every reason to expect a better public reception that a month ago seemed possible.

Until the time comes, I will make no final decision of whether or not to consult with you if and when you go in. Conditions are always subject to change and change can be rapid. However, when you tell me to call collect, after the last experience, I will not. I am a bit sensitive about my pauperdom, especially after comments have been made about it.

I will give you a response to your request about the proper course of action, but I will not now explain it, as I would not when I asked others to think. I expect you will find it unwelcome and will ignore it. But "the appropriate course of action to be taken" at this time is in my view to demand of Marshall that at this time he refuse to permit anyone else to see any of these things and to conduct a full investigation of Lattimer's report and integrity. (You will pretty certainly find, as what I have has persuaded me, thataside from the rubbish he has broadcast and his flagrant incompetence, he is an anti-semite and a right-wing political extremist. I ask you to keep this in confidence. The investigation continues). If this seems incomprehensible to you, I am sorry. I will not take more time. This ~~xx~~ is two separate things: investigate Lattimer and nobody else sees now. I tell you that he decided upon Lattimer <u>long</u> ago, and my source can't be impeached.

When we make minor mistakes they are magnified. When the whores make terrible ones they are lionized. So, if you intend to make further response to what Lattimer has said, I suggest you ask Sylvia for the specific answers. Yours on Oswald's marksmanship was true to the situation but factually wrong....I am genuinely sorry that this situation has developed, but I will not permit it to be a further intrusion into my life, work or worries. When nobody else has time (except the wonderful kids), I also don't. For your sake, I hope that what is possible does not become the reality, as I hope that what this would then require of me does not confront me.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg